

ACT For Settling the Quiet and Peace of the Church.

Edinburgh, the Twelfth Day of June, One Thousand six hundred ninety three.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Ratifie, Approve, and perpetually Confirm the fifth Act of the second Session of this current Parliament, Intituled, An Act Ratifying the Confession of Faith, and settling Presbyterian Church-Government, in the whole Heads, Articles, and Clauses thereof; And Do further Statute and Ordain, That no person be admitted, or continued for hereafter, to be a Minister or Preacher, within this Church, unless that he having first Taken and Subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, and Subscribed the Assurance in manner appointed by another Act of this present Session of Parliament, made thereunto: Do also Subscribe the Confession of Faith, Ratified in the foresaid fifth Act of the second Session of this Parliament, declaring the same to be the Confession of his Faith, and that he owns the Doctrine therein contained, to be the true Doctrine which he will constantly adhere to: As likewise, that he owns and acknowledgeth Presbyterian Church-Government, as settled by the foresaid fifth Act of the second Session of this Parliament, to be the only Government of this Church, and that he will submit thereto, and concur therewith, and never endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice, or subversion thereof. And their Majesties, with Advice and Consent foresaid, Statute and Ordain, That Uniformity of Worship, and of the administration of all publick Ordinances within this Church be observed by all the saids Ministers and Preachers, as the same are at present performed, and allowed therein, or shall be hereafter declared by the authority of the same; and that no Minister or Preacher be admitted or continued for hereafter, unless that he subscribe to observe, and do actually observe the foresaid Uniformity: And for the more effectual Settling the Quiet and Peace of this Church, The Estates of Parliament do hereby make an humble Address to Their Majesties, That they would be pleased to Call a General Assembly, for the ordering the affairs of the Church; and to the end that all the present Ministers possessing Churches, not yet admitted to the exercise of the foresaid Church-Government, conform to the said Act, and who shall qualify themselves in manner foresaid, and shall apply to the said Assembly, or the other Church Judicatures competent in an orderly way, each man for himself, be received to partake with them in the Government thereof: Certifying such as shall not qualify themselves, and apply to the said Assembly, or other Judicatures within the space of thirty days, after meeting of the said first Assembly, in manner foresaid, that they may be Deposed by the Sentence of the said Assembly and other Judicatures tam ab officio, quam à beneficio; and without Declaring, That if any of the saids Ministers who hath not been hitherto received into the Government of the Church, shall offer to qualify themselves, and to apply in manner foresaid, they shall have their Majesties full Protection, as and while they shall be admitted, and received in manner foresaid; providing always that this Act, and the benefit thereof, shall no ways be extended to such of the saids Ministers as are Scandalous, Erroneous, Negligent, or Insufficient, and against whom the same shall be verified within the space of thirty days after the said application; but these and all others in like manner guilty, are hereby Declared to be liable and subject to the Power and Censure of the Church as accords: and to the effect that the Representation of this Church in its General Assemblies, may be the more equal in all time coming, Recommends it to the first Assembly that shall be Called, to appoint Ministers to be sent as Commissioners from every Presbytery, not in equal numbers, which is manifestly unequal where Presbyteries are so; but in a due proportion to the Churches and Parochies within every Presbytery, as they shall judge convenient; and it is hereby Declared, That all School-masters, and Teachers of Youth in Schools, are, and shall be liable to the Tryal, Judgment and Censure of the Presbyteries of the Bounds for their Sufficiency, Qualifications and Deportment in the said Office. And Lastly, Their Majesties with advice and consent foresaid, Do hereby Statute and Ordain, That the Lords of their Majesties Privy Council, and all other Magistrates, Judges and Officers of Justice, give all due assistance for making the Sentences and Censures of the Church, and Judicatures thereof to be obeyed, or otherways effectual as accords.

Extracted forth of the Records of Parliament, by TARBAT, Cls. Regist.

GOD Save King William and Queen Mary.

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